

USDA-SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Athens, Georgia

Planting Guide

SPECIES: Paspalum nicotiae, Brunswickgrass

PI-310131

PI-202044 (Amcorae)

Description: Brunswickgrass is a perennial, warm-season grass with widely creeping rhizomes and slender, soft, abundant, erect to sub-erect stems. The leaves are 8 to 14 inches long and 1/4 inch in width. It produces a dense sod with a bluish cast. At maturity, the seedhead height averages about 30 inches.

Use: For vegetating waterways.

Adaptation: Brunswickgrass is adapted to the Carolina-Georgia Sandhills (137); the Atlantic Coast Flatwoods (153A); and the Southern Coastal Plain (133A) MLRAs. The northern boundary for Brunswickgrass plantings in Alabama and Georgia for the Southern Coastal Plain is Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and Macon, Georgia. Records indicate that field plantings established farther north of this boundary will not survive the winter. Some waterways were successfully vegetated with this grass in the late sixties in the Southern Coastal Plain Area.

The grass appears to be well adapted to most of the well-drained soils in the three MLRAs mentioned above.

Site Selection: Select waterways constructed according to SCS specifications and located in the Southern Coastal Plain or the Southern Piedmont (136) MLRAs.

Establishment:

Soils -- Brunswickgrass is adapted to moderately well-drained or well-drained, sandy and loamy soils of the Southern Coastal Plain and the Southern Piedmont MLRAs.

Planting Date -- Plant in the spring from March 15, to July 15. Late summer and fall seedings are not recommended.

Fertilization -- Apply lime at the rate of 1 to 2 tons per acre. Apply either 800 pounds of 10-10-10, 1000 pounds of 6-12-12, or 1200 pounds of 5-10-15 per acre. Apply 150-200 pounds of ammonium nitrate, or equivalent, per acre, when grass is about 4 inches high. Lime and fertilizer should be applied prior to land preparation so that it can be thoroughly mixed into the soil.

Seedbed Preparation -- The soil should be tilled, plowed or harrowed to a minimum of 4 inches, well pulverized, and smoothed. Soils with compacted subsurfaces should be ripped to a depth just below the compacted area. Ripping should be performed across the slope.

Seedinr Rate -- 15 pounds pure live seed (PLS) per acre.

Seeding Method -- For broadcast planting, use a cultipacker-seeder, drill, rotary seeder, or other mechanical seeder. Distribute seed uniformly and cover to a depth of 1/2 to 3/4 inch. Firm seedbed with cultipacker or roller after planting.

Mulching -- Mulch seeded areas with dry straw or hay at the rate of 2 to 2-1/2 tons of mulch per acre and cover about 75 percent of the soil surface. On steeper grades and larger drainage areas, consider using a commercial mulch fabric or netting to stabilize vegetative mulch.

Manaeement:

Weed Control -- Mow as often as necessary to control grass and weed competition. Mow waterway no closer than 4 inches from the ground during the first growing season.

Fertilization -- Apply 500 pounds of 10-10-10 fertilizer and 100 pounds of ammonium nitrate, or equivalent, per acre annually. Apply 1 ton of agricultural lime every 4 to 6 years.

Reseeding -- Because of concentrated waterflow in grassed waterways, an adequate stand is not often established by the initial planting. Reseeding and minor reshaping of small denuded areas is usually required following the initial planting.